

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05
INRE-00 CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 EB-04 SIL-01
NEA-07 AF-04 EUR-08 OIC-01 LAB-01 COME-00 /061 W
-----220905Z 061987 /17/44

O P 151532Z APR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6592
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMZMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 588-589
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 2793

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REFERENCE A)

IO FOR PALMER
SIL FOR DALE GOOD
LABOR FOR SAMUELS, HOROWITZ, QUACKENBUSH, AVERY & LINSENMAYER
PASS COMMERCE FOR UPTON

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, PLAB, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI ISSUE AT AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS MEETING
INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 80015 (B) GENEVA 2491 (C) CAIRO 5842 (D) GENEVA 2630

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO HARD INFORMATION ON
ARAB INTENTIONS, ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD BELIEVES
THAT THE MODERATES WILL PREVAIL AT THE APRIL 25 MEETING
OF THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS (ALMM) IN TRIPOLI. AT
THE JUNE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC), BLANCHARD
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BELIEVES THE ARABS WILL MAKE A "NOISY ATTEMPT" TO HAVE
HIM CONTINUE TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES; THAT THEY WILL NOT INTRODUCE A NEW
RESOLUTION OF CONDEMNATION AGAINST ISRAEL OR ASK FOR
"IMPLEMENTATION" OF THE 1974 ILC RESOLUTION; AND THAT
THEY MAY BE INTERESTED IN A "PACKAGE DEAL" INVOLVING
OTHER ISSUES AT THE ILC. WE WILL BE SEEING BLANCHARD

AGAIN ON APRIL 18; ANY GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT
SHOULD REACH US BY APRIL 17. END SUMMARY

2. WE OUTLINED U.S. ASSESSMENT OF THE AFRO/ARAB
SUMMIT MEETING IN CAIRO (REF A) AND ASKED WHETHER
BLANCHARD AGREED AND WHAT HE THOUGHT THE SCENARIO
MIGHT BE AT THE ALMM IN TRIPOLI AND AT THE ILC.
BALNCHARD RAMBLED ON IN A LONG DESCRIPTION OF HIS
RECENT CONTACTS WITH THE ARABS AND CONCLUDED THAT ON THE
BASIS OF INOMRMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM, HE DID NOT SHARE
OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CAIRO SUMMIT. HE ADMITTED THE
SAUDI PROMISE OF AID TO THE AFRICANS WAS A TACTICAL
SUCCESS BUT DOUBTED WHETHER IT WOULD LAST; HE FEELS
THE BLACK AFRICANS NO LONGER RELY SERIOUSLY ON
PROMISES. THE CAIRO SUMMIT FOCUSSED ON ME ISSUES
FAR BIGGER THAN ILO AND HE DOUBTED WHETHER THE AFRICANS
COMMITTED THEMSELVES ON ILO ISSUES. ANY AFRICAN
COMMITMENT AT CAIRO OR AT THE ALMM WOULD BE TENUOUS
ANYWAY, BECAUSE THE AFRICANS ARE FAR FROM UNIFIED AND
THE ANGOLA ISSUE WILL DIVIDE THEM EVEN MORE. HE
PREDICTED SAUDI AID WOULD BE SELECTIVE AND THAT THIS
WOULD ALSO DIVIDE THE AFRICANS.

3. THE ARAB MODERATES -- BLANCHARD WENT OVER THE
ASSURANCES HE HAD GOTTEN FROM ARAB MODERATES IN TUNISIA
THAT THEY WOULD DO NOTHING TO HURT ILO OR TO INDUCE
THE U.S. TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO AND HE REPEATED HIS FEARS
OF QADAHAFI'S ROLE AT TRIPOLI (PARA TWO REF B). THE
ALO COORDINATING COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN CAIRO APRIL 18
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TO PLAN STRATEGY FOR THE ALMM AND BLANCHARD SUGGESTED
THAT THE FIVE TUNISIAN MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MIGHT
HAVE A MODERATING INFLUENCE.

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/061 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 2793

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4. PROSPECTS FOR THE ALMM -- BLANCHARD HAS NO HARD INFORMATION BUT EXPECTS THE LIBYANS, ALGERIANS AND IRAQIS TO SEEK AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL AT THE ILC. HE ALSO EXPECTS THAT THE AFRICANS AND MODERATE ARABS WILL DRAG THEIR FEET AND THAT THE TRIPOLI MEETING IS LIKELY TO BE INCONCLUSIVE. THUS, THE FINAL ARAB STRATEGY AT THE ILC MAY NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL THE MAY 31 CAUCUS IN GENEVA (THE TUNISIAN LABOR MINISTER, ENNACEUR, WILL CHAIR THAT MEETING.) HE WILL ARRIVE IN TRIPOLI ON APRIL 23 AND INTENDS TO LOBBY WITH THE LABOR MINISTERS OF GHANA, ABAON, THE IVORY COAST, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA, WHOM HE KNOWS PERSONALLY AND DESCRIBED AS MODERATE. BLANCHARD EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT IF "FOREIGN OFFICE WATCH DOGS" WERE PRESENT IN TRIPOLI IT MIGHT EXERT AN IMMODERATE INFLUENCE ON THE LABOR MINISTERS.

5. PROSPECTS FOR THE ILC -- BLANCHARD FEELS THE ARABS
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WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO FORCE THROUGH A RESOLUTION OF CONDEMNATION AGAINST ISRAEL, AND WILL NOT TRY TO REVIVE OR TO FORCE "ILLEGAL" IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1974 RESOLUTION. BLANCHARD THINKS THE ARABS WILL MAKE A "NOISY ATTEMPT" TO HAVE HIM CONTINUE TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. BLANCHARD RECENTLY TOLD ARAB REPS HERE HE HAD NOT "CLOSED THE BOOK" BUT THAT ILO INTEREST IN CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES CONTINUES; HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THEIR REPORT TO THE ILC (REF D), THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS HAD QUESTIONED ISRAEL ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTION 111 (DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT). HE "WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED" IF THE MAIN THRUST OF ARAB STRATEGY IN THE ILC WERE TO OPPOSE THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 OF THE STANDING

ORDERS (TO PERMIT SCREENING OUT OF POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS)
RATHER THAN TO FORCE THE ISSUE ON THE 1974 RESOLUTION.
HE SUGGESTED THE ARABS MIGHT TRY FOR A "PACKAGE DEAL"
IN WHICH THEY WOULD SUPPORT THE SOVIETS AND EES WHO WILL
BE UNDER FIRE IN THE ILC COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF
CONVENTIONS (REF D), IN RETURN FOR EE HELP IN(1)
OPPOSING U.S. POSITIONS ON ARTICLE 17 AND STRUCTURE,
AND (2) IN KEEPING SOME SORT OF INVESTIGATION OF
ISRAEL BEFORE THE ILC AND THE ILO GOVERNING BODY.
HE SPECULATED THAT THE ARAPS MIGHT SETTLE FOR CONTINUATION
OF HIS INFORMATION GATEREING, EVEN IF IT WERE NOT
PART OF THE FOLLOWIUP TO THE 1974 RESOLUTION; HE DID
NOT SUGGEST THAT THE ARABS HAVE ARTICLE 26 OR OTHER
LEGITIMATE ILO INVESTIGATORY PROCEDURES IN MIND.

6. COMMENT: BLANCHARD HAS NOT TOLD US ANYTHING NEW
ABOUT ARAB INTENETIONS; AND SOME OF HIS SPECULATIONS
SEEM CONTRADICTORY. FOR INSTANCE, IT IS HARD TO SEE
WHY THE SOVIETS WOULD NEED AN INDUCEMENT FROM THE ARABS
TO OPPOSE THE U.S. ON ARTICLE 17; OR WHY THE ARABS
WOULD DEFEND THE EASTERN EUROPEANS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS
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CHARGES IN THE ILC COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS
WHEN THEY WILL BE ATTEMPTING TO USE THE WORK OF THIS
COMMITTEE IN THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ISRAELIS.
BLANCHARD KNOWS WE DO NOT WANT HIM TO PLAY A ROLE AND
THAT WE DO NOT SHY AWAY FROM MOTES OR CONFRONTATIONS
ON BASIC ISSUES IN THE ILC. NEVERTHELESS, HE MAY BE
TELLING US INDIRECTLY THAT A PACKAGE DEAL IS POSSIBLE
AND IMPLYING THAT HE IS THE MAN TO PUT IT TOGETHER.
IF, AFTER THE TRIPOLI ALMM, THIS TURNS OUT TO BE
BLANCHARD'S MESSAGE, HE CAN BE STRAIGHTENED OUT DURING
HIS WASHINGTON VISIT IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY. END COMMENT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, MEETING AGENDA, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, PERSONAL OPINION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA02793
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770252-0891, D770131-1104
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770454/aaaabujw.tel
Line Count: 211
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f6f398a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 80015, 77 GENEVA 2491, 77 CAIRO 5842, 77 GENEVA 2630
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Jul-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2797612
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI ISSUE AT AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS MEETING INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE
TAGS: ELAB, OCON, IS, XA, XF, ILO, ILC, (BLANCHARD, FRANCIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f6f398a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009